

# 2010 ANNUAL REPORT

WORLD  BIRD  
S A N C T U A R Y



## A YEAR OF GREAT PROGRESS

We are excited to be presenting our first official annual report to the community, highlighting the performance and accomplishments of the World Bird Sanctuary during the fiscal year ended July 31, 2010. In its 33rd year of existence, WBS has progressed from its humble origins as a grassroots organization of committed volunteers intent on saving endangered birds of prey to a nationally and internationally recognized multi-faceted professional organization. This includes an expanded mission which now extends to four primary focus areas: education, rehabilitation, propagation and field studies focusing on wildlife preservation and habitat management.

Our dedicated staff remains focused on furthering our mission, aided immensely by a large and diverse cohort of committed volunteers. In 2010, the combined efforts of these hard working individuals culminated in a number of new accomplishments, only some of which are highlighted in this report. Although we take pride in our continuing track record of raising the majority of the funds necessary to support our mission through program revenues, our progress would not be possible without the generous support of our many individual and institutional supporters. We are grateful for both their recognition of the importance of our mission and the confidence they have placed in us as wise stewards.

In 2010, more visitors than ever before came to enjoy our beautiful environmental education center in southwest St Louis county, and what they found there was better than ever. For the first half of our existence, access to our facilities was extremely limited, so the vast majority of our educational outreach efforts took place in the community – at schools and zoological parks. Those efforts continue unabated, but now members of the public can visit our education center seven days a week – for free! – to experience the unique majesty of birds of prey and be inspired by stories of their successful struggle to survive.

Although we are proud of our accomplishments, we never lose sight of the fact that, in the end, its all about the birds and their survival, and what they can teach us about the importance of being a responsible environmental citizen.

Thank you for your support over the last year. We look forward to continuing our journey together – to protect our world's birds, and their habitats.

Sincerely,



John Risberg  
President, Board of Directors  
World Bird Sanctuary

The mission of the World Bird Sanctuary is to preserve the earth's biological diversity and to secure the future of threatened bird species in their natural environments. We work to fulfill this mission through education, propagation, field studies and rehabilitation.



**EMPOWERMENT  
THROUGH EDUCATION**

At World Bird Sanctuary we believe that it is the responsibility of every single citizen of this country to be good stewards of the environment. Therefore, we believe that it is the right of every single citizen of this country to have access to the information to help them make decisions to achieve this goal. The earth's biodiversity can only be protected when the earth's inhabitants are equipped with the right tools and information to make informed decisions regarding their impact on the environment.

With this goal set as a priority in 2009/10, World Bird Sanctuary worked to make all aspects of the World Bird Sanctuary site accessible to people who are physically challenged.

Through the generous donation of Mr. Edward Risch, in memory of his wife Marie Risch, the mulch path at the Visitor's Information Center area was paved in compliance with American Disability Association specifications. This made the interactive exhibits and birds in this area accessible to people in wheelchairs, strollers and those using walking frames. In addition, the picnic pavilions were paved and wheelchair accessible picnic tables were installed.

After consultation with the St. Louis Society for the Blind, improvements were made to the facilities to make it easier to navigate for persons who are blind or visually impaired. In addition, many exhibits now have Braille titles, and an Interpretive Tote bag with touchable items and Braille fact sheets are now available, free of charge, to any persons who are blind or visually impaired, to enhance their experience at World Bird Sanctuary.



The Monsanto Fund facilitated the building of a 3-season classroom at World Bird Sanctuary that has increased our capacity to deliver on-site environmental education programs throughout the year, including the cooler, wetter months.

Throughout 2009 World Bird Sanctuary continued to conduct outreach education programs focused on giving members of our community the tools that they need to continue to use the earth's resources in a thoughtful and sustainable manner. Over 191,000 people attended 917 environmental education programs presented by World Bird Sanctuary in 2010.



Over 13,000 people attended World Bird Sanctuary's free environmental education programs and events throughout 2009, including World Eagle Day in March; Amazing Animal Encounters throughout the summer; Birds in Concert in August and Annual Open House in October.



# **PROPAGATION: CONSERVATION IN ACTION**

World Bird Sanctuary continued to deliver on our mission to preserve the earth's biological diversity through several conservation-oriented programs in 2010.

The Endangered Species Breeding and Release program released 7 American Barn Owls in Missouri in 2010. World Bird Sanctuary has released over 800 Barn Owls since this program began in the mid-1980's, resulting in the Barn Owl being removed from the Endangered Species list in 2009. We are proud of this accomplishment.

World Bird Sanctuary's Propagation Department also breeds non-native birds of prey for use in education programs at reputable institutions around the country. This program provides a source of captive-bred exotic animals without the need for institutions to capture wild animals in their native habitats. In 2010, World Bird Sanctuary's breeding birds produced 1 Tawny Owl, 2 Augur Buzzards and 3 Eurasian Eagle Owls.

The Bald Eagle Flight Team managed by World Bird Sanctuary continues to captivate audiences around the country, completing 54 eagle flights in 2010. Seeing a majestic bald eagle in flight, and then in person with a trainer, is often their first experience of this country's national symbol. Lewis, Clark, Norbert, Patriot and Liberty are ambassadors for the power of community involvement – the bald eagle's removal from the Endangered Species list in 2008 is testament to the work of World Bird Sanctuary and others to protect our earth's biodiversity and the strength of conservation in action.





## **REHABILITATION: RETURN TO THE WILD**

In 2010 the World Bird Sanctuary's Kathryn G. Favre Wildlife Hospital admitted 211 birds, of which 107 were successfully treated and returned to the wild.

The World Bird Sanctuary's Wildlife Hospital has been serving the wider Missouri community for over 30 years, providing medical care and rehabilitation services to approximately 200-400 sick and injured birds of prey each year. Most of the cases that are admitted to the Wildlife Hospital have received an injury or are poisoned as a consequence of direct or indirect human encounter.

The wildlife hospital focuses on delivering high-quality and

successful raptor rehabilitation services that will help us to better determine and understand the problems facing wildlife in our modern world. Raptor rehabilitation allows us to learn more about and understand the importance of ecosystems and our obligations to the next generation. It also affords us the opportunity to use the information in the continual improvement and development of our successful environmental education programs. This encourages students to improve the quality of the wildlife habitat that surrounds them and to take accountability for managing the earth's resources in a sustainable manner.





**FIELD STUDIES:  
KEEPING THE WILD HEALTHY**



The World Bird Sanctuary Field Studies Team continues to monitor wild bird populations through seasonal bird banding efforts and habitat management contracts.

In 2009, the World Bird Sanctuary Bird Banding Team conducted 39 sessions, in which 393 birds of 43 species were captured, banded and released. Data is recorded regarding the species, size, age and sex of each bird before it is released. It is then submitted to the Central Banding Lab at the United States Geological Survey for recordkeeping. This work helps wildlife organizations and authorities track the health of bird populations through their movements, migration, breeding and numbers.

The Field Studies and Habitat Management Teams also conducted 87 site visits to various high land-use corporations and provided assessments and recommendations to ensure that the land-use was compliant with state and federal environmental management laws and regulations.

photo by Patrick Lanham



**World Bird Sanctuary values responsible stewardship of financial resources**  
**Net Assets: Audited statement of changes in Assets, Liabilities**  
**and Net Assets (condensed) as of July 31, 2010**

**ASSETS**

|                                                                                       | <b>July 31, 2010</b> | <b>July 31, 2009</b> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Cast & cash equivalents                                                               | \$433,959            | \$188,232            |
| Accounts receivable, net of allowance for doubtful accounts of \$2,000 in 2010 & 2009 | \$39,425             | \$133,928            |
| Promises to give                                                                      | \$14,156             | -----                |
| Inventories                                                                           | \$12,610             | \$16,360             |
| Investments                                                                           | \$7,464              | \$7,727              |
| Deposits                                                                              | \$1,000              | \$3,500              |
| Property & equipment, net                                                             | \$1,732,395          | \$1,694,454          |
| <b>Total Assets</b>                                                                   | <b>\$2,241,009</b>   | <b>\$2,043,601</b>   |

**LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS**

| <b>Liabilities</b>                        | <b>July 31, 2010</b> | <b>July 31, 2009</b> |
|-------------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Accounts payable and accrued expenses     | \$161,646            | \$57,160             |
|                                           |                      |                      |
| <b>Net Assets</b>                         |                      |                      |
| Unrestricted:                             |                      |                      |
| Operations (undesignated)                 | \$194,048            | \$61,239             |
| Board-designated building fund            | \$172,935            | \$172,935            |
| Board-designated scholarship fund         | \$57,813             | \$57,813             |
| Investment in property and equipment      | \$1,635,585          | \$1,694,454          |
| <i>Total Unrestricted</i>                 | <i>\$2,060,381</i>   | <i>\$1,986,441</i>   |
| Temporarily Restricted                    | \$18,892             | -----                |
| <b>Total Net Assets</b>                   | <b>\$2,079,363</b>   | <b>\$1,986,441</b>   |
| <b>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</b> | <b>\$2,241,009</b>   | <b>\$2,043,061</b>   |

# GROWTH IN REVENUE

Net revenue increased in 2010 due to diligent financial oversight by the Board of Directors that reduced expenditure and continues to ensure that each department is working towards achieving the mission of World Bird Sanctuary. The World Bird Sanctuary conducts annual external audits of our financial procedures. This document is available to any donor on request through the Office of the Executive Director of World Bird Sanctuary.

## Statement of Revenue and Expenses:

Audited statement of revenue and expenses (condensed) as of July 31, 2010

### REVENUE

|                                                                 | July 31, 2010      | July 31, 2009      |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Public support (contributions, sponsorships, in-kind donations) | \$593,953          | \$312,788          |
| Program revenue                                                 | \$644,559          | \$926,842          |
| Contract revenue                                                | \$178,660          | \$102,095          |
| Merchandise revenue                                             | \$25,364           | \$28,951           |
| Revenue from interest, dividends and gains on investment        | \$919              | \$(11,015)         |
| <b>Total Public Support &amp; Revenue</b>                       | <b>\$1,443,455</b> | <b>\$1,359,661</b> |

### EXPENSES

|                        | July 31, 2010      | July 31, 2009      |
|------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Program services       | \$1,095,223        | \$1,154,529        |
| Management and general | \$97,612           | \$113,248          |
| Fundraising            | \$157,698          | \$154,035          |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>  | <b>\$1,350,533</b> | <b>\$1,421,812</b> |

# **WORLD BIRD SANCTUARY**

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**President: John Risberg**

**Vice President: John Kemper**

**Treasurer: Dennis V. Breite**

**Secretary: Leon Ullensvang**

Bill Berthold • James Cook • Tom Drury • John Kemper  
Joel Kichline • Scott Liebel • Mike McClorey • Thomas Rollins  
Judy Roman • Arnold Schrier • Ronald Suchanek

